

Sample Slab Update #11 – June 2016

The newsletter for sample slab collectors

Book News – Second Edition on Schedule for August Release

Needing only a few touches that have to wait to the last minute, such as page numbering, [Sample Slabs](#), second edition, is on schedule to launch August 9 at the World's Fair of Money in Anaheim. When it goes to the printer in early July, you will receive a discounted pre-sale offer. The final numbers are 620 pages, 760 listings, and a huge 940 photos. A few readers took advantage of the offer in the recent [Sample Slab Update Sale #3](#) of a pre-production version of the full book in PDF.

With the number of slabs increasing by 180 in about a year, that means we are discovering a new slab every two days. As Conder101 wrote in his 2003 magnum opus [The Slab Book](#), one of the difficult parts of the project was knowing when to stop.

A few people asked about a third edition with the additional listings discovered since I stopped adding new types on March 31. Future editions could happen someday, but not soon and definitely not in 2017. However, the second edition is now just a few weeks away.

Market Notes

The sample market was more active than usual in the past two months, with prices strong. The market can support almost any amount of PCGS material without lower prices. The largest issuer of samples also has the largest collector base. When several examples of a high-end sample from any other grader come on the market at once, however, any buyers after the first one will get bargains. Although grading services such as SEGS are far less common than PCGS, they have many fewer collectors and sell for little.

eBay seller rs1055, who had two large sales previously, came back with another hoard of quality sample slabs. The sales from May 31 to June 24 were heavy on PCGS dimes, including three PCGS-010-2-1 doilies, which the markets happily absorbed without a price drop. Showing the number and dedication of PCGS specialists, bidders noticed that a green-label 1960-D dime had the word “SAMPLE” at the right of the label instead of the middle. This turned a common holder into a type previously unseen in my eBay research and known only from sampleslabs.com, a PCGS-010-3-6. The auction soared past the wild guess \$25 catalog value to end at \$154.06. My main collecting goal is to obtain one holder from every service, so I was happy to buy two of the three scarce NCS Buffalo nickels in rs1055's offerings, including the serial 001 pictured here. This sample, unlisted by Conder and Keifer, has a translucent soft plastic insert instead of the white insert used on NGC holders.



A seller in Spain offered a series of recent PCGS samples, each labeled as a France 10 euro cents, but containing coins of other Eurozone nations such as Italy and Belgium. The five error slabs earned \$50 - \$63 each, and even the correctly-labeled France samples sold for \$36 each.



Sample slab market maker Mike Kittle held another massive no-reserve sale ending on June 19, focusing on PCGS Treasure Hunt slabs from the last few Long Beach Expos. A few of the Treasure Hunt quarters went low, but the sales included a nicely toned PCGS Collectors Club Silver Eagle for \$100.88 (against catalog of \$35), two fresh Long Beach slabs with Nixon dollars for \$67 and \$81.69, and the PCGS 30th Anniversary medal for a healthy \$227.50. The stars were the two dual coin PCGS holders, each with a retro green label and holding an MS66 1943 cent and MS66 1943-D

nickel. The only other two-coin holder of which I know is the PCGS example with a 2010-D and 1943 cent that was in Tim Larson's collection displayed at FUN and Long Beach earlier this year. Collectors stepped up to own a new two-coin graded sample and they sold for \$330 (with an MS66 nickel) and \$435.19 (with the nickel graded MS66 Full Steps).

Proposed Sample Collector Meeting at the Anaheim ANA

Who is interested in a sample slab collector meeting at the Anaheim ANA convention August 9 – 13? This will be an informal get-together, without program or agenda, intended to give collectors an opportunity to meet face-to-face, talk about samples, and trade. It could take place in one of the public areas in the convention center or convention hotel. An evening time would allow those of us working at the convention to attend. All collectors, of course, will be invited.

If you find a meeting of interest, please email me, especially if you have advice on times, dates, or locations.



Ad Space Available in Sample Slabs Second Edition

Advertising space is available at the end of the new edition of Sample Slabs. If you routinely buy or sell samples, this is a highly targeted way to reach your market. Advanced collectors might find it worthwhile to place buy ads or even to post specific want lists. Advertisements will appear in color in the PDF download and in black and white in the printed softcover.

Please email your ad, preferably in Word, to me at davidschwager@hotmail.com. PayPal payments can go to the same address, or email me to make other arrangements. Closing date is June 30.

Full page (\$70) should fit in a box 3.5 inches wide by 6.5 inches tall.

Half page (\$40) should fit in a box 3.5 inches wide by 3.2 inches tall.

Buying and Selling

Many of the lots in [Sale #3, the fixed price list that went out June 17](#), are still available. This sale includes samples at all price ranges, from bulk lots and inexpensive pieces to scarce varieties for the specialist.

If you would like to place a brief buy or sell ad in the next Sample Slab Update at no charge, please email me.

Sample Slab Update #11 – June 2016 (sent 6/24/16). By David Schwager, Fountain Valley, California. davidschwager@hotmail.com. Please email me to be added to or removed from the mailing list. Comments and submissions are welcome. See SampleSlabBook.com for past issues.